the metal fuel is selected from the group consisting of molybdenum, calcium, strontium, barium, titanium, zirconium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, tungsten, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, cadmium, tin, antimony, bismuth, aluminum, silicon, and mixtures thereof, wherein

the oxidizer composition has at least one of a crystalline phase transition, a melting point, a eutectic point, or peritectic point at a temperature of no more than about 250°C, and wherein the metal fuel and oxidizer are present in amounts sufficient, and are sufficiently intimately mixed to ensure a sufficient degree of contact in the composition between the oxidizer and the metal fuel to provide an autoignition composition having an autoignition temperature of no more than about 232°C.

Cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

4. (amended) The low temperature autoignition composition of claim [3] 2, wherein the powdered metal fuel is selected from the group consisting of molybdenum, [magnesium,] titanium, zirconium, niobium, nickel, chromium, zinc, aluminum, and cerium.

5. (amended) The low temperature autoignition composition of claim 4, wherein the powdered metal fuel is selected from the group consisting of molybdenum, [magnesium,] titanium, zirconium, zinc, and cerium.

15. (amended) The low temperature autoignition composition of claim 13, wherein the powdered metal fuel is selected from the group consisting of molybdenum, [magnesium,] titanium, zirconium, niobium, nickel, chromium, zinc, aluminum, and cerium.

16. (amended) The low temperature autoignition composition of claim 13, wherein the powdered metal fuel is selected fuel from the group consisting of molybdenum, [magnesium,] titanium, zirconium, zinc, and cerium.

Add the following new claims:

25. (new) The low temperature autoignition composition of claim 1, wherein the fuel comprises molybdenum and the oxidizer comprises a mixture of silver nitrate, potassium nitrate, and guanidine nitrate.

26. (new) A low temperature autoignition composition for safely initiating combustion of a main pyrotechnic charge in a gas generator or pyrotechnic device exposed to flame or a high temperature environment comprising:

a mixture of an oxidizer composition and a powdered metal fuel, wherein the oxidizer composition comprises a mixture or a comelt comprising silver nitrate and at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal nitrate, an alkaline earth metal nitrate, a complex salt nitrate, a dried, hydrated nitrate, silver nitrate, an alkali metal chlorate, an alkali metal perchlorate, an alkaline earth metal chlorate, an alkaline earth metal perchlorate, ammonium perchlorate, sodium nitrite, potassium nitrite, silver nitrite, a complex salt nitrite, a solid organic nitrate, a solid organic nitrite, and a solid organic amine, wherein the metal fuel and oxidizer are sufficiently intimately mixed to ensure a sufficient degree of contact in the composition between the oxidizer and the metal fuel to provide an autoignition composition having an autoignition temperature of no more than about 232°C.

27. (new) The autoignition composition of claim 26, wherein the metal fuel is present in an amount sufficient to form a fuel rich composition, thereby providing an autoignition composition having an autoignition temperature that is less than the autoignition temperature of a similar composition having a stoichiometric amount of metal fuel.

28. (new) The autoignition composition of claim 27, wherein the powdered metal fuel is chosen from the group consisting of molybdenum, magnesium, calcium, strontium, barium, titanium, zirconium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, tungsten, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, cadmium, tin, antimony, bismuth, aluminum, and silicon.